

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 171040
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
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R 070029Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASHA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 171040

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:EMIN

SUBJECT: KOLWEZI COBALT

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REF: LUBUMBASHI 772, LUBUMBASHI A-8, LUBUMBASHI 791

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES YOUR EXCELLENT AND TIMELY RE-
PORTING ON IMPACT OF SHABA INVASION ON COBALT PRODUCTION
IN KOLWEZI AND RESUMPTION OF PRODUCTION, ESPECIALLY
LUBUMBASHI 772. --

2. IN PARAGRAPH 6 OF LUBUMBASHI 772 CONSULATE POINTED OUT
SERIOUS DIVERGENCE OF VIEWS ON CURRENT RATES OF PRODUCTION
OF COBALT AT MINES, CONCENTRATORS, AND PROCESSORS. IN OUR
ANALYSIS OF LIKELY FUTURE AVAILABILITY OF COBALT TO U.S.
CONSUMERS, SUCH WIDE DIVERGENCES WOULD BE CRUCIAL. WITH-
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PAGE 02 STATE 171040

OUT RISK OF PERSONAL SAFETY, CAN CONSULATE UNDERTAKE AN
ON-SIGHT INVESTIGATION OF THE CONDITION OF THE OPEN-PIT
MINES, THE KAMOTO UNDERGROUND MINE, THEIR RESPECTIVE CON-
CENTRATORS, AND THE LUILU FACTORY AND THEIR RATES OF OPERA-
TION? -

3. PREVIOUS REPORTING HIGHLIGHTED THE PRODUCTION PROBLEMS

KOLWEZI WAS HAVING WITH FALLING LEVELS OF COBALT CONCENTRATION IN THE ORE BEING EXTRACTED. ARE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE MINING OPERATION AND THE LONG TERM PRODUCTIVITY OF THE ORE-BODY BEING SACRIFICED FOR THE PUBLIC RELATIONS GOAL OF DEMONSTRATING QUICK RESUMPTION OF OPERATIONS? IN TERMS OF TONS OF COBALT CONTENT, HOW MUCH IS BEING PRODUCED, CONCENTRATED, PROCESSED, AND SHIPPED?

4. BOTH IN PARA 6 AND IN YOUR COMMENT IN PARA 8, YOU POINTED OUT THAT THE CURRENT RATE OF PRODUCTION PROBABLY CANNOT BE SUSTAINED. WHAT PREDICTIONS CAN BE MADE REGARDING THE LIKELY DECLINE IN PRODUCTION OVER THE COMING MONTHS?

5. HOW IS COBALT CURRENTLY BEING TRANSPORTED OUT OF SHABA PROVINCE AND AT WHAT RATES? ANY FIRST-HAND OBSERVATIONS BY THE CONSULATE IN THIS REGARD WOULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL.

6. IN LUBUMBASHI A-8, THE CONSULATE REPORTED ON THE NAMING OF CHARLES PICQUET TO THE TOP EXPATRIATE POSITION AS ASSISTANT TO DELEGATE GENERAL UMBA KYAMITALA IN FEBRUARY. WE ARE NOT AWARE, HOWEVER, OF PICQUET'S ROLE DURING THE INVASION AND IN THE POST-INVASION RESUMPTION OF PRODUCTION. ANY REPORTING ON THIS POINT WOULD BE APPRECIATED, ESPECIALLY EFFORTS BY PICQUET TO ATTRACT EXPATRIATES BACK
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PAGE 03 STATE 171040

TO SHABA. VANCE

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PAGE 01 STATE 171040

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /009 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 171040

FOR SWEETWOOD

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 171040 SENT ACTION LUBUMBASHI INFO
KINSHASA, BRUSSELS, LONDON 07 JUL 78

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 171040

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PAGE 02 STATE 171040

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PAGE 03 STATE 171040

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UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

NOTE: ORIGINAL DISTRIBUTION: EB/ISO,AF,EUR,INTE,COME,INT,TRSE,NRC,DOE,SOE,OES,GSA

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 07 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KOLWEZI COBALT -
TAGS: EMIN
To: LUBUMBASHI
Type: TE
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